

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been amended. Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application.

The specification has been amended in response to the claim rejection in item 3, paragraph one of the office action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph to delete the sentence that the ramps are axially shifted with respect to each other. The Examiner's understanding is correct that the ramps cannot move with respect to each other because they are both attached to the same actuating member.

Regarding the rejection in item 3, paragraph two of the office action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, the tabs 24a, 24b, 34 and 36 project through an aperture in the circuit board. They do not interfere with ability of the contacts 22a, 22b, 24c, 26c to contact the board 28. The new Fig. 4 illustrates the circuit board 28 with an aperture located above the plate 20 and showing the contacts 22 contacting the board 28.

Regarding the rejection in item 3, paragraph three of the office action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, the actuator 16 and the plate 20 are not securely attached to each other but are jointly movable rotatably and are movable relatively axially (claim 1 and Specification, under Background Summary of the Invention on page 1, lines 24-25). The plate 20 is located inside of the housing (Fig. 1) by an inner radial flange which enables rotation of the plate 20

with the actuator 16 but blocks axial movement of the plate 20. This structure is known in the art and not illustrated herein. (See, for example, previously cited reference documents EP 1037231 in Information Disclosure Statement filed 2/26/2002, and DE 3031711, DE 1072895 in Information Disclosure Statement filed 5/10/2002).

Regarding the rejection in item 3, paragraph four of the office action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, the specification on pages 3 and 5 has been amended to clarify that the bent portions 24b, 26b of the contact elements 24, 26 do not make contact with the contact element 22 and that contact between the board 28 and the contact elements 24, 26 is made through contact surfaces 24c, 26c being in contact with the board 28. No new matter has been entered. The specification does correctly state that the contact elements 22, 24, 26 are all punched from the same piece of gold plated metal on page 3 lines 6-9.

Regarding to objection in item 3, paragraph five of the office action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, line 4 of claim 1 states "the movable contact carrier 20 and the actuating member 16 are coupled together for joint rotation and relative axial movement". When the cam or ramp 18 is located in the slit (not labeled) of the contact plate 20, (Fig. 2) both relative axial as well as rotational joint movement is achieved. Relative axial movement is achieved with the cam is located in the slit because the cam can slide along the slit axially while the carrier plate 20 remains stationary.

Regarding the meaning of claim 5, claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the contacts 24a, 34 and 26a, 36 extend axially.

Regarding the objection in item 1a, Fig. 3 is a correct depiction of the invention. Fig. 3 is a schematic perspective view of the plate 20 and the board 28. When viewed in perspective, the thickness seems to disappear along the horizon.

Regarding the objection in item 1b, the opening is shown in the plate 20 in Fig. 2 as actuator 16 passes through the opening. The opening is not shown in the board 28 in Fig. 3; however, the Examiner is correct in the assumption that there is an opening in the board. Fig. 4 is being submitted along with this amendment to illustrate the opening in the board as well as the plate 20.

Regarding the objection in item 1c, the contacts 22a, 22b are indeed elevated above the plate 20 in Fig. 2 as Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the invention. The contact 22 is partially elevated. A replacement drawing sheet for Fig. 2 is being submitted along with this amendment to correct the placement of the reference numeral 20 and the lead line. The new placement of the reference numeral 20 clarifies that the plate 20 is located underneath the contact 22. Thus, the contacts 22a, 22b are more clearly shown in the replacement sheet as elevated above the plate 20.

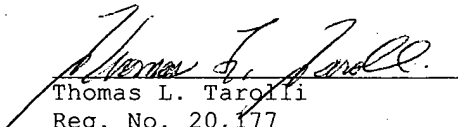
Regarding the objection in item 1d, the center of plate 20 in Fig. 3 is not shown. The plate is shown transparent in the center to show the structure of the contacts.

Regarding the objection in item 1e, the sliding paths 30, 30' are properly illustrated in a perspective blown-up view. The contacts 24c are for contacting the corresponding unlabeled sliding path located the farthest radially inward on board 28 in Fig. 3. The contacts 22a are for contacting the corresponding sliding path 30' located the farthest radially outward on the board 28 in Fig. 3. The contacts 22b are for contacting the sliding paths 30 located between the sliding path 30' located farthest radially outward and the unlabeled sliding path located farthest radially inward.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas L. Tarolli
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
526 Superior Avenue, Suite 1111
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294